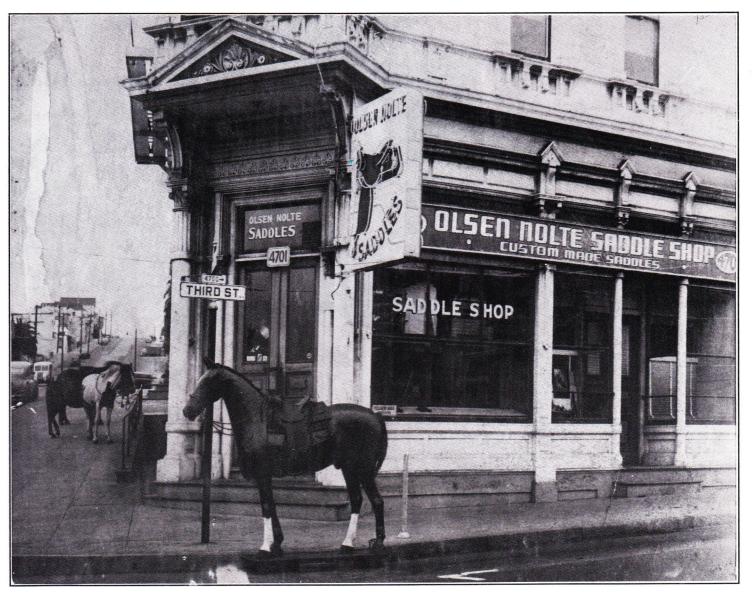
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COVER

The original Olsen Nolte building in South San Francisco

Magazine: Linda Menon

Photographs: Sue Sheehan, Dick Sanders, George Sublett

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Doris Lantz



Spring has definitely "sprung" and I'm sure you're all enjoying the beautiful weather, getting your horse(s) in shape for a lot of summer riding, and cleaning up your tack and trailer. Whether you enjoy trail riding, showing your horse, learning new things, or just making new "horse people" friends, the Horsemen's Association has activities scheduled for you!

Our Western Schooling Shows start June 5th and the English Shows on June 18th (see page 9 for details). Our first trail ride, an exciting "foreign food fest" organized by Donna Tozi, will be April 24th, followed by the Family Picnic in May, and the restaurant ride in June (watch your mail for details to come). Also in June our Western Riding Clinic begins, to continue for six weeks, ending with the annual show and dinner.

And don't forget our annual Jack Brook Horse Camp—scheduled for August 22-29 this year. This is always a very special time to get away from the hectic everyday routine and ride the beautiful trails. Although the camp is only 15 or 20 miles from home, it feels like you're a million miles away! Bring your family, bring your friends, and enjoy yourself!

Along with all these events, there are some serious matters that deserve your attention as well. We're happy to report that a new Bill is proposed that will eliminate the sport of "horse tripping". But only with your support will it be passed. Also, the possibility of bicycles being given access to trails in Huddart Park and Pescadero Creek Park is very real. It's not too late to make your voice heard. Please see details on pages 11 and 3—the horse community needs your support.

And one last reminder . . . our Association is a volunteer group and your participation is not only welcome . . . it's needed! Whatever your interest, your talent and your time availability. . . we would love to have your input. Call me at (415) 366-5475 or (415) 583-7800 or talk to any one of the Board members that you see at any of our events.

Happy trails, 000

CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS APRIL 23 & 24

Trail Days began in 1969 when two state parks in the Santa Cruz Mountains, 26 miles apart, were connected by the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. Since then, Trail Days has become a time for both statewide and nationwide celebrations. While the original purpose was to connect two California state parks, there are now many additional goals.

The overarching goal is to focus public attention on trails and trail volunteers who provide tens of thousands of hours in building new trails and repairing old ones. Governor Wilson has issued a proclamation setting aside April 23 and 24 for the state's observance of California Trail Days and June 4 for observance of National Trails Day.

During the past eight years California Trail Days has grown, attracting almost 6,000 volunteers who participated in 120 projects in 1993. Accomplishments have been monumental. Hundreds of miles of trails have been built or repaired, thousands of trees planted, trail signs installed, fences constructed and bridges built throughout the state.

Our local trails were originally built by the horse community. That was then. Now the horse community needs to show their support for the trails!

Come on Saturday, April 23, at 8:30 to Huddart Park main gate and help with our trails. This event is sponsored by San Mateo County Parks and Recreation and San Mateo County Volunteer Horse Patrol.

Contact Carolyn Rathbun, 323-4990 or Marian Vanden Bosch, 369-8305 for more information.





CSHA REGION 6 STOCK COMPETITION

by Cynthia Stagner

Events: Team Penning 3 on 3, Cutting, Team Roping, Breakaway Roping

Goals: To qualify for High Point awards and CSHA State Championship

Even if you've never thrown a rope, penned

cattle, or tried cutting, the CSHA Stock Competition is for beginners as well as the experienced. The Region 6 Stock Division offers a learning environment as well as competition and awards.

Penning, Roping and Cutting will be run separately at different locations. Hands-on clinics, practices, and competitions will be available for each event. Start thinking about putting together some partners for the team events. You will compete with the same team(s) through the



season. Region 6's top five teams and riders (in each event) will go to the State Championship. Currently this program is small, so all participants could qualify!

In order to earn points towards awards and to qualify for the State Championship, participants must be a member of the California State Horseman's Association (CSHA). If you are a member of SMCHA, you are already a CSHA member.

For more information and to register, send a S.A.S.E. along with you name, address and phone number to: Cynthia Stagner, R6 Stock Chairman, P.O. Box 2541, Menlo Park CA 94026; or call (415) 593-9940.

OLSEN NOLTE, A LOCAL INSTITUTION

by Adda Quinn Sublett

Hunters Point in South San Francisco used to be the destination for cattle drives in the Bay Area. There a slaughter house awaited the unsuspecting beef. There too was a logical place for cowboys to repair equipment broken on the trail drive and buy new goods and tack manufactured on the site. Olsen Nolte began business in the 1930s at this propitious location, originally as saddle makers. With the advent of World War II, this local manufacturer was impressed into the production of belts and cavalry supplies. It seems hard to believe that this country, which ended that war with jet planes and atomic bombs, began it with propeller planes and cavalry. In those days, there were no suppliers. A company like Olsen Nolte manufactured everything it sold.

In the old picture on the cover of this magazine, real horses are tied up on the side of the original Olsen Nolte building down the street from the old South City Opera House, near the slaughterhouse (quite a cultural mix!). The famous horse mannequin welcomes its real brethren at the store front, much like its successor now does from atop the building at 1580 El Camino Real in San Carlos. While these mannequins are of no particular significance other than for marketing, there is a paper mache horse that "lives" inside the building at the current location that was used by harness makers to fit gear and is an interesting antique.

Riding has evolved considerably since the first days when Olsen Nolte opened their doors for business to the basic cowboy. Merchandise now caters to a variety of riders from dressage to endurance to pleasure to show to ropers and team penners. Inventory has been expanded to include an extensive line of both Eastern and

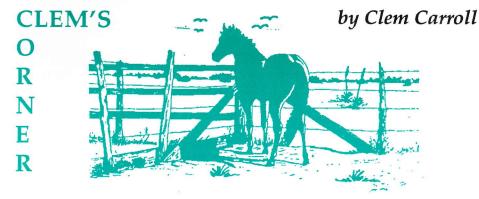
Western riding clothing. In the course of this evolution, the store location has migrated from South San Francisco to Redwood City, Palo Alto and finally settled in San Carlos since 1959.

The Olsen Nolte store is a treasure trove of well-stocked inventory aimed at meeting the needs of the pleasure rider. Owners Al and Nancy Baglietto believe "... if you buy good tack, you don't replace it. We look at everything that goes on the walls for quality workmanship." There are no closeouts, no promotions, and no used equipment, except for a very few, fabulously crafted old handmade saddles shown to us as examples of the fine workmanship involved in the initial saddlery business. There is no hard sell here. As Al said, "We have too many people that have to be pleased with a purchase: riders, spouses, trainers, etc." For that reason, this is



one of the few stores of its kind that offers cash refunds to its customers.

For the horseman or woman interested in customer-oriented service, stop by and chat with Al or Nancy, long time supporters of the San Mateo County Horseman's Association.



This is the story of Jan Jeffers, a very fine horsewoman now in her forties who used to live with her dad, Jim Lawson, and her stepmother on Raymundo Drive in Woodside. I have pictures of her, then about 8 years old, in the Redwood City Fourth of July parade riding her dad's white Arabian mare. Jan once said, "I've never even seen that parade, my dad had me riding every one."

Some thirty years later Jan and her husband, Jim Jeffers, are still into horses. They are very active in N.A.T.R.C. and both are judges besides every once in awhile competing in 50 and 100 mile endurance rides. Maybe some of you don't know what N.A.T.R.C. stands for — it's National Association of Trail Riders Club. In order to win points a person is judged on EVERY-THING! How you tie a horse, how you mount, how you "pace" your horse, do you rise in your stirrups going up a hill, and don't bring in your horse to a check out point before the scheduled time! (I was faulted once because I didn't place a blanket in the correct order. I tossed in on the horse instead of placing it just so.) And be sure to know the order in buckling and unbuckling the body straps. All their rules have a meaning: it's for the safety of horse and rider.

Jan did the Tevis 100 miler in '93, and finished within the time limit. The first Tevis buckle she earned was in 1974 and I asked her for comments and comparisons. She said the riders now were more knowledgeable and more courteous. Every year there are riders from England, France, and Germany. They make arrangements to rent conditioned horses from a man called "Potato" who lives in the Auburn area, and he is still supplying the horses and crews.

I remember years ago, Trudy Petersen was doing the ride and she told me of a teenager who seemed to buddy up with her. She discovered the young man was riding on his own — no crew, no preparation at all, so the Petersen clan shared their knowledge with him. So back to Jan's story. She now takes us along when she did the Tevis in '93:

"My experience on the Tevis this year was wonderful. I rode it in 1974 for the first time, but I enjoyed it this year more than in 1974. Why? Well, I have more experience in endurance and competitive trail riding. I feel that I appreciated the ride more. I wasn't out to prove anything, just to finish. I paced my horse through the whole ride at a N.A.T.R.C. pace.

will now take you through the ride. Friday is check-in from 12:00 noon on to dark. The staging area changed from when I rode in 1974. The Western States Trail Foundation procured some property above Truckee for the staging area. It is beautiful, with tall trees and lots of shade. Unlike the Squaw Valley staging area, here we are so spread out that it is hard to find one another. After check-in, it is time to relax and shop. There were vendors galore to choose from. At about 7:30 or so we had a ride briefing along with introductions of people who started the Tevis 100 mile ride many years ago (one being Nick Mansfield). Then it was on to bed for a good night's sleep ha, ha.

On Saturday morning at about 4:00 a.m., I saddled my horse, checked all my equipment again, gave instructions to my crew, and headed for the start line. The crew went along to see me leave. As you cross the timer you have

Continued on page 7

CLEM'S CORNER, continued

to give your number and then wait for the magic 5:00 a.m. hour to start down the trail. There were 157 horses or so, so it wasn't that crowded. The start is a "shotgun" start now. The last time I rode it was a group of 20 horses at 3-minute intervals.

At 5:00 we were off, trotting and galloping down a graded fire road. The air was crisp, sweet smells of the trees and sound of riders bounding down the trail. When we came into Squaw Valley is was light with a foggy mist over the valley to our left. At the base of Squaw Peak there was a water stop for those who wanted to stop, then up to the top of Squaw Peak and over the top and down into Granite Chief area. The Granite Chief area is a narrow trail, no room to pass, so if the leader is a "slow poke", you just have to wait for an opportune time to get by and go on your way. My horse slipped a time or two on the large granite slabs we crossed. At one point I saw her left hind leg in my peripheral vision. At the same time a rider behind me said, "Nice save!" We crossed a small patch of snow also.

Once the trail widened out onto a fire road again, we were off by ourselves, which is the way I like to ride. The horse pays more attention and we have a nicer ride. Our next hurdle is Cougar Rock. When I rode in 1974 there was a photographer there taking

pictures. This year there were at least 10 people taking movies, photographs and who knows what. It is a distraction to the horse, I feel, having all those people there. As I approached I saw a rider ahead of me, so I trotted up to get a good look at how we were going to negotiate the rock. She went straight up then had to turn to her left. Holding onto the mane with the right hand and having the reins in the left hand, she tried to neck rein the horse to the right. No such luck. The horse didn't know how to neck rein. At this point she took hold of the right rein and steered the horse to the right, but at this point the horse lost his balance and momentum and slipped a time or two before he was able to make it to the top.

ell, after watching this I was a little apprehensive. But to my amazement "Seeker" walked right up that rock like it was a mole hill. At the top a photographer said, "Good Job." Then we went on to Elephant's Trunk, a shale trail on the side of a mountain.

As we came into our first spot check, I felt that my horse was a little "off" from time to time, probably from the slips she had taken at Granite Chief. I was a little concerned, but we passed the check with no problem. When I came into Robinson's Flat, our first hour stop, I was really concerned. It seemed that she was off even more often. So I had resigned myself that this was as far as I was going today. That's okay, I told myself. I can take the horse back and bed her down, wrap her legs, and take a shower and have a nice dinner. The vet checked her and said she

Continued on page 8

The Annual Woodstde Tr. Rodeo

July 4th, 1994

with Petting Zoo and Pig Scramble

at **Mounted Patrol Grounds**521 Kings Mountain Road,
Woodside

sponsored by
San Mateo County Mounted Patrol

Dinner and dance to live entertainment: Sunday evening, July 3rd



CLEM'S CORNER, continued

was fine. I said, "Are you sure? She felt off to me at times." She still said she was okay. What was my problem? Did I want to get pulled here? We took the horse over to our spot at Robinson's Flat and I sat in a chair, cleaned the dirt off me, got a massage, ate and relaxed. The horse was unsaddled, fed, cleaned up and massaged, too. The hour being up, off we went for the next stop, Dusty Corners. This was a spot check, meaning that when your horse recovers to the criteria, you can have them checked by the vet and go on. From there we traveled on down the road into the first canyon. At this point a lady caught up with me and followed me for a ways. I asked if she wished to pass, but she said no. We got to talking about one thing and another, and I was telling her about my horse and how wonderful she was etcetera. Well, it turned out that the lady that I was talking to was Sherie Lacy of Lacy's Arabians, where I bought my horse. I didn't recognize her as she was behind me and I didn't turn around. We laughed about that and caught up on old times. As we reached the river, I gave her a few tips on where to water and terrain.

I left her at that point and headed up to Devil's Thumb and then into Deadwood where my girlfriend was working giving out watermelon, carrots, apples, and water to the riders. This was also a spot check. The horse felt good to this point and was raring to go. Down into the next canyon, El Dorado, and then up to Michigan Bluff. My crew was about a quarter mile from the stop with a fivegallon bucket of water for the horse and a wet washcloth for me. I dismounted and we walked into the stop. This was our last hour stop. In five minutes the horse was down to the criteria and we vetted her through. We were fortunate enough to be able to park behind the Hall's house, which is right on the main street of town. There I was able to take a shower while my crew worked on my horse. I even got a foot massage and powdered feet! This was the 58-mile stop.

The next stop was seven miles down the road to Bath Road, which is in Foresthill, this is also a spot check. There are fluorescent sticks that allow you to see a little in the dark, but more importantly so that someone can see you. They hang them on the trail so the riders can see where they are going, but I was so far back in the crowd that they were all glowed out by the time I got there. From Foresthill, I turned onto the California Loop, 17 miles of narrow trail above the American River. At this point, I was by myself but enjoying every minute of it. I talked to the horse and enjoyed the night, the sounds and the smells. Before I knew it I was at Francisco's. This is a large sandy area that is lit by butane powered lanterns. There was food for the horses and food for the rides. A lady that worked the stop saw me when I came in and took the horse from me. She fed her and then we vetted her though. By this time, I was hungry. I had eaten at Michigan Bluff, a bacon, lettuce and tomato with avocado sandwich and a popsicle and something to drink.

pon leaving this stop, I was not sure where to go exactly, because I had not ridden this portion before. But somehow we found our way to the next spot check, which was the Highway 49 crossing. After feeding the horse a little and getting her checked out by the vet, we headed for home. Up across the highway and across "No-Hands Bridge" I finally ran into a rider. She was on a white horse with a glow stick in her horse's tail. I though, oh, this is great, I can follow her easily with the Glow Stick. I had thought of putting one in my horse's tail but never got around to it. About two or three miles of following this glow stick, I was in a trance and having a hard time shaking it off. Finally, the finish line. We finished 53rd in 22 hours and 45 minutes out of 79 finishers and 150 starters.

The actual finish line is about a quarter mile from the stadium. There the vet checks the

CLEM'S CORNER, continued

horse and then lets you go on down to the stadium where you do a victory lap. Not only was my crew there, but a whole lot of N.A.T.R.C. people who had stayed up until 4:00 in the morning to cheer me in. It's so nice to have a cheering section. Then we had our final vet out. The horse looked wonderful. I felt wonderful. Back up to the stall where we wrapped her legs and fed her. She was famished. One of my crew spent the night with her sleeping outside her stall. She said when she would wake up every once in a while she would listen for the munching and knew the horse was all right. The horse ate all night while other horses slept.

All in all it was a wonderful ride. The heat factor was cool compared to when I rode in 1974. Every vet stop was stocked with drinks for the riders and hay for the horses, and some even had bran for the horses. The Western States Trail Foundation does a great job in organizing and staffing the stops. They are all volunteer help, with the exception of the veterinarians. I had such a good time I want to complete it eight more times and get my (1,000) gold buckle.

I prepared for this ride by conditioning three days a week and competed in three N.A.T.R.C. rides and two 50 milers. I competed in N.A.T.R.C. in 1991 and 1992. 1993 was her first year for endurance.

Hope this helps, Clem, I just kind of rambled on in a lot of places, but I think you can make sense of it."

Thanks, Jan, I felt we were right there beside you.

One year, I helped crew a 50 mile American River Ride with Trudy and Ulla — the rider, Jesper Petersen. He became lost once, going too fast, missed a "ribbon turn," went an extra ten miles, but was on a terrific Arabian and did well in spite of it all.

A number of years ago, Jesper was doing the

Tevis with several friends. They had just completed a very long steep climb and somehow Angela Schaffer Baldwin's horse stepped on a loose rock, tripped and she went off. After some time she still could not move, and Jesper realized that only help would be to contact an emergency crew. He rode hard to the next vet check having a phone, a helicopter was summoned and Angela was taken to the nearest hospital. (After a long recovery, she was riding again.) Being a good Samaritan, Jesper never completed that ride. But he has nine 100 mile buckles anyway.

These notes should bring back memories to a number of local Tevis riders.

Mark your calendars

1994 SMCHA SCHOOLING SHOWS AT WEBB RANCH!



Western Schooling Show Silver Buckle Series



June 5, July 10 and July 31 Shows start at 9:00 a.m.

New! Age 10 and under classes.

Contact: Carolyn Rice (415) 364-8622 Deanna Tanner (415) 851-9853

English Schooling Shows

June 18 and August 7 Shows start at 8:00 a.m.

Contact: Nancy van Zwol (415) 967-8752 or (415) 723-2417

Don't miss the Norcal Open Western Show on August 14th Woodside Mounted Patrol Grounds.

Contact: Noel Moody (415) 322-6545

OUR FRIEND TEX ROWAN 1913–1992

By Noel Moody

My sister always referred to Tex as that wonderful "sincere" cowboy. "Sincere" made me laugh, but really, that's what Tex was. He was a genuine cowboy and there aren't any more around like him. He actually rode sixty-five miles a day in Bryce Canyon for the Cattlemen's Association. He broke horses for a big ranch outside Houston. He went on roundups and worked rodeos. He had a Stetson and boots and a vest and he was Mr. Western Atmo-

sphere when he sat at a bar. He looked the part because that's what he was, a cowboy.

Any western rider in Woodside knew Tex and knew a Tex story. Like the Sunday afternoon in the Peanut Farm when Doug and he were sitting at the bar. A cute girl came in, she saw Tex and came over and gave him a kiss. Then a second girl spied Tex and came over and gave him a kiss. Soon a third cutie came in and repeated what had occurred with number one and two. Doug said, "The next girl who comes in here, I'm going to kiss." Just then I walked in! So I kissed them both.

Another time when Tex was a Greyhound bus driver, he was making a run from San Francisco to Pescadero. He left San Francisco about 7:00 p.m. and was supposed to arrive in Pescadero about 9:00 p.m. One of his passengers was a seventy-six year old grandmother. She didn't show up at the Pescadero bus stop. Neither did the bus. Neither did Tex. The family called the police and the search was on. It ended at 1:00 a.m. at Duarte's in the bar where everyone was whooping it up. Tex didn't lose his job but you and I would have!

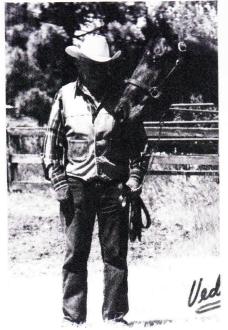
Even his horse had a Tex story. Tex was looking for a two year old stud colt to buy. He drove to a ranch

outside Boise and when he couldn't locate anyone in the house, he decided he would look around the barn anyway. He heard a gleeful laugh coming from a stall. Investigating, he found a little boy about eighteen months swinging from the tail of a two year old stud colt. The horse didn't move a hair. Tex decided this was the horse for him so he bought Rocky, a buckskin grandson of Poco Bueno by Poco Jim. He owned him twenty-four years.

> Rocky would baby-sit Tex in Tex's drinking days. If Tex tilted to the right, Rocky would scoot to the right and keep him balanced. When Tex would lean backwards, Rocky would backup under him. Then, when Tex was sober, Rocky would give him a few bucks and get even.

In the fifties, there was a terrible fire at a boarding stable in Daly City by the beach. Tex's wife's lot of others. Tex went down the rows and shot thirty-seven horses that were burned over more than forgot that event.

horse burned to death and so did a eighty percent of their body to put them out of their misery. He never The biggest laugh on Tex hap-



Tex and Prescription Chex

pened the weekend he went to Carson City with his two horses. When it came time to come home, he hooked up the trailer and checked up on the routine things. He took the horses out of the corral and tied them to the hitch rack while he was going about his chores. Then he got in his truck and drove to Sacramento. When he was getting gas he asked the attendant if he could water his horses. The man gave him an odd look but said, "Yes." Tex opened the hay bin door and lo and behold, the trailer was empty! Seemed he thought his wife had loaded the horses and she thought he had. So

Continued on page 11

TEX ROWAN, continued

he unhooked his trailer and came and got them the next week.

Tex was twice Los Viajeros President. He made every Four-Day Ride from 1961-1992. He was a member of SMCHA for more than thirty years and he worked every Jr. Rodeo put on by SMCHA. He also went to the Grand Nationals at the Cow Palace every year for forty years. That is, every day of the event not just one time.

Tex was a true cowboy who had ridden the range and broke horses. He loved people and never demanded anything from anyone. I always thought the Hitch Rack and the Peanut Farm should have paid him for sitting on the bar stool and adding genuine western atmosphere.

He used to say in his drinking days, that Rocky knew what the ride would be and just did it. The horse would go from the Hitch Rack to the Peanut Farm to the Pioneer. A long ride was when he reversed his tracks. Then Tex got alcohol poisoning and a nurse told him on the third day of his hospitalization that she had wonderful news. They had found blood in his alcohol! So Tex switched to orange juice and never drank another drop. But he never gave up telling stories or enjoying people, or living life, or owning a horse. He was just Tex. Sincere. 🔭



STOP HORSE TRIPPING

Every weekend in California and throughout the Southwest, at one of the hundreds of Mexican Charro Rodeos, horses, made to run as fast as they can across the arena, are roped, bringing them crashing to the ground, feet buckling underneath, and possibly breaking legs. A new state-wide Assembly Bill (AB2537) will be introduced in the near future by Assemblyman John Burton which will make it against the law to trip a horse. You can help to save horses from this cruelty, by writing a short letter to the Governor urging him to support this bill. Address your letters to:

Governor Pete Wilson State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

You can also obtain additional information or send tax deductible donations to:

Ark Trust Horse Project Lifeline Inc.
P.O. Box 8191 P.O. Box 3273
Universal City, CA 91608 Glendale, CA 91221

JACK BROOK HORSE CAMP FEE SCHEDULE

by Dick Sanders

In March, a meeting with County staff was held to discuss the fee schedule for Jack Brook Horse Camp as well as needed upkeep/ improvements. The new fees will be:

Small Group Area (1-9 people)
Sunday - Thursday \$ 20.00/night
Friday & Saturday \$ 60.00/night

Large Group Area (10-50 people)
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday \$50.00/night
Wednesday & Thursday \$80.00/night

Friday & Saturday \$250.00/night

It was also agreed to move the phone to the back wall of the restroom/shower building, to check the canyon trail, and to provide electricity to the small group site.

In the lottery drawing held for scheduling 1995 camp dates, SMCHA chose <u>August 21-27, 1995</u>. For those of you that like to plan early, mark your 1995 calendars!

DRESSAGE: IT'S NOT ALL TOP HATS AND TAILS

by Adda Quinn Sublett

What do you do with a green, young Quarter Horse mare who was bred for the racetrack, ran a bit, then sold to an eleven-year-old youngster who didn't know how to ride and was let stand three years? We jokingly called her the Rodeo Queen when we first started riding her, never knowing if she would go forward, at right angles or straight up. She was so unused to being hand fed that she often got fingers when taking carrots. But, she seemed to like people, was willing and we liked her. After several months of leasing and in full knowledge of her foibles, we took the plunge and bought Flight. She was six years old by now chronologically, but about half that in experience. George, being an old cowboy, was very successful in ground school and teaching her manners. But trail rides were always an adventure. One gray Christmas day about three months after purchase, we were running in Edgewood Park when Flight suddenly took a notion to make a right angle left turn without telling George, who's body continued forward progress. While neither horse or rider were drastically injured, there was a clear need for behavioral modification here, somewhere. George was too old to work with, so that left the horse.

Our first attempt was with a lady who trained show horses. While her animals were gorgeous and won medals, she was terrified (not without cause) to get on our horse's back. After a month, we had the best "lunged" nag in the county, but we still didn't have much increased confidence in either horse or trainer.

We next looked into the "horse gentler" Western school of training which has many appealing facets to it. Their objectives are to:

- Gain control of your horse on a loose rein;
- ◆ "Send" the horse where you want him to go on a straight line;
- ♦ Keep the horse's hind legs engaged and under rider's control;
- Cause the horse to yield to your pressure;

- Create lateral suppleness; soften the eyes and neck; stretch the back;
- ♦ Train horses through transitions, using aids and cues.

Most of these are dressage techniques. At a Western horse clinic held last year, Dennis Reis said: "Dressage is massage. What you want to do is relax your horse when you ride so that it gives its feet to you to control." Similarly, hunter-jumpers often train their mounts by doing "flat work", which is essentially dressage.

orses (and, in fact, most of us animals) are born crooked from "backing" all curled up in mom's womb for months on end. How often did your mother say to you: Stand up straight? Dressage trains the horse by gymnastics to supple and to straighten which will make it last longer physically. An inscription in the Spanish riding School in Vienna, the Mecca of dressage, reads: "Ride your horse forward and make him straight". In the Whole Horse Catalogue (Steven Price, et. al., 1985) the goal of elementary dressage is stated to produce a horse that:

- is calm, is obedient to the rider, and moves freely and easily at the walk, trot and canter, making smooth transitions between gaits.
- bends its neck and body to follow curves, and walks straight.
- ♦ accepts the rider's hands through the bit and reins. A horse correctly in contact, or "on the bit", not only accepts the pressure of the rider's hands but seeks to maintain it by exhibiting low head carriage.
- ♦ displays forward impulse originating in the energetic stepping forward of the hind legs, transmitted through the horse's relaxed back to a stretching of the neck and a "reaching" for the bit. Thus the energy of the gaits, contact and head carriage are inextricably related.

Because she had so far to go with her learning, we decided to give Flight dressage lessons. We found a

Continued on page 13

DRESSAGE, continued

local trainer named Ann Watson who came out to our ring, took Flight for a test ride, and agreed to work with her. In a year of weekly one hour lessons, we noted phenomenal progress in this animal. Flight began her education with three gates: walk, trot and run (a legacy from the track). She now has a canter, extended and collected gaits, leg yields, shoulder in, and other disciplinary moves. Watson employs classic methods which include the use of progressive discipline (Ask, Suggest, Promise), patience, and repetition since learning occurs on horse time, not on human time. Flight's lesson plans are varied, interesting and challenging to keep her attention as well as de-

velop skills. The horse is now clearly more educated than her trail-rider owners, but the main benefit of all this has been a much more disciplined, controlled animal on the trail. Which is not to say that she isn't still full of beans on occasion, but dressage training has made a huge difference.

Flight practicing dressage with Ann Watson

Cynthia Brownlee, Manager of the Stanford Equestrian Center (the Big Red Barn on the campus behind the tennis courts on Electioneer Road) recounts other success stories where dressage training has paid off with local horses. She owned a big, young, disorganized horse named Tag who simply had never grown into his own huge body. At 17.1 hands, this Appaloosa / Thoroughbred / Hanoverian mix could just barely make turns in a large arena. He was so awkward that he had to trot down hills to keep his balance, and he was always leaning on one leg. She decided on dressage training that included both ring work and trail rides at the beach. Tag hated getting his feet wet, so they did a lot of leg yielding parallel to the incoming and outgoing surge on the irregular terrain of the sand. Combined with the steady paces set for each gait in arena work, both venues established a framework of rhythms that built proper muscles and created a lovely pleasure horse in about 1-1/2 years of training.

Similarly, Brownlee tells of giving dressage training to Sandra Surber's Friesian driving horse, Wietse. Wietse turned right by throwing his right shoulder to the right, his nose to the left, and leaning into the curve like a bicycle rider taking a turn. She worked with him 2-3 times a week in dressage training. In a year, he was not only bending correctly between the carriage shafts, but Wietse was winning ribbons in dressage.

Both Brownlee and Watson stress the importance of patience and the need to work on horse time. Horses are comfortable in their crooked state. By systematically creating musculature that reinforces straightness, the rider is helping the horse to become even more comfortable so that the horse is willing to give the rider what he/she wants. By building a framework of

rhythms based on forward motion through the gaits, balance, relaxation and discipline are learned. The major differences between Western training and classical dressage teaching styles appear to be in the emphasis on (1) being on the bit vs. on a loose rein, and (2) trust in arena footing vs. making decisions about footing on trails. But both styles are seeking similar outcomes and seem to agree with the sage inscription: "Ride your horse forward and make him straight."

Suggested reading:

Mairinger, Franz, <u>Horses Are Made to Be Horses</u> Podhajsky, Alois, <u>The Complete Training of Horse</u> and Rider

Watjen, Richard, Dressage Riding

C.S.H.A. HORSEMASTERSHIP PROGRAM

by Suzann Eichhorn



The program provides "horsemastership"

"horsemastership" competition in each of the C.S.H.A. regions, with region winners competing in October at the C.S.H.A. Show of Champions. Junior

winners at the state finals are awarded scholar-ships to the accredited institution of higher learning of their choice. Senior winners receive appropriate awards. The amount of the scholarship awarded to the State Junior Champions in each category is \$400.00, except Combined Champions, who each are awarded \$750.00. Scholarship money is to be used for educational purposes only, not room and board.

At the region level, a scholarship of at least \$100.00 is awarded to the Junior Champion in each category. This is available until the age of 17 years. In addition, awards are presented for high scores in written and riding tests for each division. Winners in all divisions will receive awards. You must compete in all three tests in order to be eligible for awards.

What is Horsemastership?

Horsemastership is defined as a combination of: the art of riding; a working knowledge of horses, their care and feeding, their injuries and diseases; breeds of horses; conformation; etc. Horsemastership covers not only the ability to

Horsemastership covers not only the ability to ride, but also an understanding of the equipment involved and the rules concerning riding under nearly all circumstances.

Who is Eligible to Compete?

To compete in Horsemastership a person must be an individual member, family member, or junior member of C.S.H.A. or must belong to a C.S.H.A. member club. The junior age limit is 17 years and under (as stated in the American Horse Shows Association rules . . . "Your age on December 1st is your horse show age for the year.") Senior competitors may participate by paying a \$20.00 registration fee. There is no registration fee for junior competitors, however we are requesting a \$10.00 commitment deposit from juniors. This money will be returned to them upon completion of their riding test.

How Do I Participate?

In Region 6, contact either Suzann Eichhorn at (408) 972-5238 or Karen Lavrischeff at (408) 259-1976 for more information.

★

Trading Post

√ I'm looking for someone (any age) who likes to draw horses, to help illustrate a children's riding book. Knowledge of tack, aids, and accessories preferable. We need a "cartoon look" of facial and body expressions (happy, sad, mad, and stubborn) of the horses and riders. Other drawings may include a truck and trailer, stable areas, fences, grooming equipment, show ring equipment, etc. Cynthia Stagner, P.O. Box 2541, Menlo Park, CA 94026 (415) 593-9940.

√ 1993 Sundowner 6-horse stock trailer, 6'x16'x7'. White steel with black pin-stripe; 20% nose, mats, spare, low profile roof. \$5,856. (415) 591-9609

√ 1992 Logan 3-horse slant trailer. Gooseneck with v-nose, full rear door, spare tire, dressing room with 4-saddle rack. \$5,250. (415) 591-9609

A DAY IN THE PARK ON HORSEBACK

by Dick Sanders

Several members of local horse groups organized a horseback tour of Jack Brook Horse Cimp and Pescadero Creek for the new Director of San Mateo County Parks & Rec Department, Patrick Sanchez, and his wife Kelly. Those participating included: Amos and Patty Dana representing SMCHA; Ray Baumbach and Grant Bennion representing the Shack Riders; Rob Krensky and Doug Moody representing Los Viajeros; Dale & Bev Ryman and Dick & Bev Sanders representing

the Mounted Patrol; and Cheryl Chandler representing Volunteer Horse Patrol.



Rob Krensky, Cheryl Chandler, Dick Sanders, Kelly & Patrick Sanchez, Ray Baumbach, Doug Moody & Grant Bennion



April 5th was a beautiful day, the trails were great, the people wonderful and the lunch [provided by the Danas and Rymans] was awesome! Patrick and Kelly seemed to enjoy the ride and the horses they rode were appropriately well behaved!

The outing provided an opportunity to discuss several topics including the history, future use and needs of Jack Brook Horse Camp; camp planning, upkeep and collaboration with County Administration and staff;

and safety/liability issues regarding bicycle usage of access roads and trails. The day was a great success!

NOEL'S NOTES

by Noel Moody

GOOD-BYE TO TEX, JOHN AND MARGARET

Tex Rowan suffered a massive heart attack on February 15 and passed away on February 18. Doug rented a bus for Los Viajeros members to attend Tex's Memorial in San Francisco. 29 members attended and many Tex stories were related during the bus trip. Seems everyone was intimidated by all the prayers at the service to get up in front of the minister to tell Tex stories about wine, women and song. Anyway, with Tex having been a Greyhound bus driver, the bus was most appropriate.

On March 13, friends of John Olivier gathered at the Woodside Barn to remember him. Friends made a wonderful memorial board full of photos and tidbits relating to John's Armed Forces Days, his riding escapades with PALOOSE, and his accomplishments in the business world. It was a very warm and sunny day and everyone commented that John would truly have enjoyed it.

Then on March 18th, Margaret Reese, a long time member of SMCHA (over 30 years) suffered a massive stroke. Margaret was a very knowledgeable horsewoman and came from an old pioneer Hollister ranching family. She raised numerous reined cow horses including Bar Etch by Doc Bar who was many times Pacific Coast Working Cow Horse Champion. For years, Margaret worked as show secretary at the SMCHA shows. Her daughter, Mary Ellen Taylor, is an English riding instructor at Fremont Hills Country Club.

We will miss all these wonderful individuals. *

DALE RYMAN: MOUNTED PATROL HORSEMAN OF THE YEAR

In January, Dale Ryman was honored by the San Mateo County Mounted Patrol for his more than 17 years of leadership and contributions to the local horse community by being named "Outstanding Horseman Citizen of the Year."

After more than four decades of experience as a civil engineer, responsible for millions of dollars of freeway projects in the Bay Area, Dale has devoted much of the past 17 years to improving the miles of equestrian trails in the area. "When I retired from the highway department, I went on to the next thing - designing and building small bridges for our hourse trails up here," Ryman was quoted in <u>The San Mateo Times</u>.

For the past six years, Ryman has been president of the Woodside Trail Club. He is also a past president of the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association and is still active in the



De Anza Trail Association. Although Ryman feels his days of "saddling up" are just about over, that doesn't keep him from being a true horseman.

LOS VIAJEROS HALF MOON BAY RIDE

by Dick Sanders

More than 50 riders enjoyed a perfect spring day on the April 10th Los Viajeros ride at Half Moon Bay. After a short ride up and down the sandy beach and a loop around the bluffs above the beach, the group rode north to El Granada, crossed Highway 1 (much to the delight of Sunday drivers!), and ended up at the home of Cathy and Josh Thatcher for a delicious spaghetti lunch.







B.O.K. RANCH

by Carol Crowther

B.O.K. Ranch was founded by Ann Kulchin and her daughters in 1985 and since that time has dedicated itself to providing therapeutic horseback riding lessons to individuals with special needs. The name of the ranch, B.O.K., came from the initials of the names of the program's founders. However, B.O.K. simply means "Be Okay." The program is

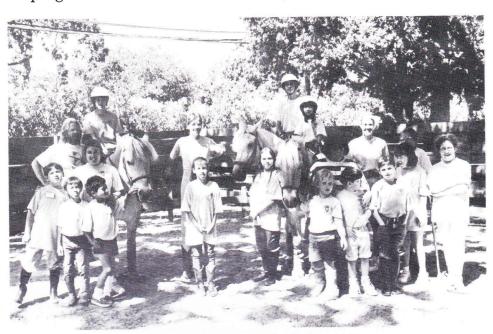
located in Los Altos Hills at Hidden Villa which encompasses 1,600 acres of farmland and wilderness preserve.

I started with B.O.K. as the therapeutic riding instructor a year ago, and every lesson I find that combining people who have special needs with gentle horses yields amazing results. It is incredibly rewarding to witness the B.O.K. students who have disabilities, either physical, mental, emotional and/or developmental, progress in their riding skills and boost self confidence while having fun at the same time!

Currently, B.O.K. Ranch has 68 students in total for this 8-week spring session. The program uses two Norwegian Fjord ponies and one Arab-Peruvian Paso cross horse. These equines are specially trained and invaluable to everyone involved with B.O.K. Ranch.

However, some of the students need a taller and wider-based horse. We are searching for a 4th horse who is fairly wide-based, can carry 200 pounds easily, is able to do some low jumping, and most importantly has a calm and tolerant disposition. If any SMCHA member can help us locate such a horse, please contact the B.O.K. office at (415) 366-2265.

If you don't know of a horse but you would still like to help B.O.K. by becoming a volunteer, please call (415) 366-2265 or the volunteer coordinator at (415) 325-6113. Volunteers are essential to the success of our program. Without dedicated volunteers, the students wouldn't be able to participate in the B.O.K.



BOK Ranch Western Day fundraiser, 1993

Ranch lessons. We need your help!!

Another way to learn more about our program is to come to our annual Western Day fund raiser. This year our fund raiser will be held on June 26, 1994. For more information call our office at (415) 366-2265.



SMCHA Norcal Show

SMCHA Jack Brook

SFHA

Golden Gate Park Ride & BBQ

1421

22-29

1994 CALENDAR

TENTATIVE

		IENIA	LIIVE		
APRIL 10 13 17 24	LV SMCHA SFHA SMCHA	Golden Gate Park Ride & BBQ	SEP 3-5 9 14 16-1	ETEMBER LV SMCHA SMCHA SMCHA	O Zances
7 7,8 11 15 20-22	SMCHA LV SMCHA SMCHA SFHA	Carmel Valley Ride Board Meeting	1-2 2 9 12 28	TOBER LV SFHA SMCHA SMCHA SMCHA	Board Meeting
JUNE 5 8 5 12 18 26	LV SMCHA SMCHA SMCHA SMCHA SMCHA	Almaden/Quicksilver Ride Board Meeting Western Show Western Clinic—Dates to be annour Restaurant Ride English Show Marin Headlands Ride	6 9 17	VEMBER LV SMCHA SMCHA EMBER SMCHA	Progressive Ride Board Meeting General Meeting Board Dinner
26 JULY 4 10 13 14-17 17	SMCHA SMCHA SMCHA SMCHA LV SFHA	Parade Western Clinic—Dates to be announ Western Show Board Meeting Silver Lake Ride Golden Gate Park Ride & BBQ			
24 29-31 31 AUGUS 6-7 7 TBA 10	LV SMCHA SMCHA SMCHA	Western Schooling Show Jack Brook Overnighter Western Show Santa Cruz Ride English Show Outdoor General Mtg. Board Meeting	SMCHA San Mateo County Horsemen's Association activities LV Los Viajeros rides (for information contact Carleen Whittelsey at (415) 851-4000 SFHA San Francisco Horsemen's Association rides		



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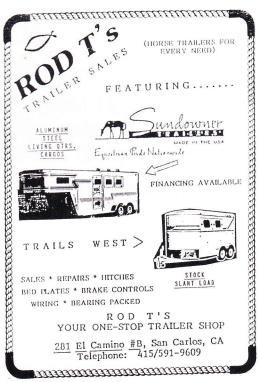
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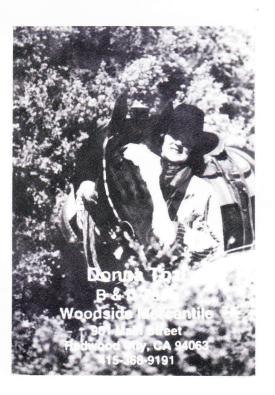


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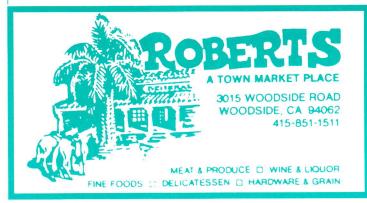
This store is owned by a fellow horse-person, Donna Tozi, who has happily been a member of SMCHA since 1954.

The San Mateo Horseman, Spring 1994



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1994

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